

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7, 11, 14-17 are amended
Claims 8-10, 12, 13, and 18-26 are withdrawn
Claims 27-39 are new

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently amended) An animal toenail covering ~~A polymeric sheath~~ having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape defining a pliable sheath generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail, said polymeric sheath comprising a an external coating ~~second layer of polymer covering~~ encompassing at least a portion of said polymeric sheath.
2. (Currently amended) The polymeric sheath animal toenail covering according to claim 1 wherein said ~~second layer~~ external coating of polymer has a ~~durometer~~ hardness greater than that of said polymeric sheath.
3. (Currently amended) The polymeric sheath animal toe nail covering according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric sheath is ~~colored~~ and said ~~second layer~~ external coating of polymer is ~~a are~~ different color colors ~~than that of said polymeric sheath.~~

4. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath~~ animal toe nail covering according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric sheath further comprises internal anticline cleats.
5. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath~~ animal toenail covering according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric sheath further comprises a partial delamination between said polymeric sheath and a portion of said ~~second layer~~ external coating of polymer.
6. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath~~ animal toenail covering according to claim 1 wherein said polymeric sheath further comprises at least an adhesive element.
7. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath~~ animal toenail covering according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive ~~means~~ element is a liquid adhesive inserted between said ~~polymeric sheaths~~ sheath and said ~~second layer~~ external coating of polymer.
8. (Withdrawn) The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is a pliable gel cap containing an adhesive located at said opening to said polymeric sheath.
9. (Withdrawn) The polymeric sheath according to claim 8 wherein said adhesive means is a pliable gel cap containing an adhesive activation agent.
10. (withdrawn) The polymeric sheath according to claim 8 wherein said pliable gel cap is a wax cap containing an adhesive paste

11. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath animal toenail covering~~ according to claim 1 further comprising a textured inner wall surface.
12. (withdrawn) The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is an adhesive paste applied to a removable film tab applied to said opening of said polymeric sheath.
13. (withdrawn) The polymeric sheath according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means is comprised of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with said polymer formulation used to form said polymeric sheath.
14. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath animal toenail covering~~ according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means ~~element~~ is an adhesive powder.
15. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath animal toenail covering~~ according to claim 6 wherein said adhesive means ~~element~~ is an aerosol.
16. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath animal toenail covering~~ according to claim 14 wherein said adhesive powder is applied to tooling used in a dip molding process for forming said polymeric sheath.
17. (Currently amended) ~~The polymeric sheath animal toenail covering~~ according to claim 16 wherein said adhesive powder is applied to said tooling by electrostatic means.
18. (withdrawn) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:
 - a) clipping said animal's toenail;

- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath; and
- c) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

19. (Withdrawn) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;
- c) applying an adhesive means by spraying interior of said polymeric sheath with an atomized adhesive; and
- d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

20. (Withdrawn) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive

means and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

c) activating said adhesive means by manually manipulating said polymeric sheath thereby rupturing a reservoir membrane located within said polymeric sheath; and

d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

21. (Withdrawn)—a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail
said method comprising:

a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means comprised of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with material used to form said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible reacting adhesive agent chosen from said plurality of component elements into said polymeric sheath; and

d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

22. (Withdrawn) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means comprised of a plurality of component elements at least one of which is mixed with material used to form said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;
- c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible reacting adhesive agent chosen from said plurality of component elements directly onto said animal's toenail; and
- d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

23. (Withdrawn) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

- a) clipping said animal's toenail;
- b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive powder means adhered to the inside walls of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;
- c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible liquefying agent directly onto said animal's toenail; and

d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

24. (Withdrawn) the method according to claim 23 further including the step of electro statically depositing said adhesive powder with said polymeric sheath.

25. (Withdrawn) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means adhered to the inside wall of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

c) activating said adhesive means by introducing a compatible liquefying agent on to said animal's toenail; and

d) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

26. (Withdrawn) a method for securing a polymeric sheath to an animal's toenail said method comprising:

a) clipping said animal's toenail;

b) selecting an appropriate size polymeric sheath having an opening at one end and an internal and external shape generally consistent with that of an animal's

toenail said polymeric sheath further comprising, internal cleats, an adhesive means adhered to the inside wall of said polymeric sheath and a second layer of polymer covering at least a portion of said polymeric sheath;

c) activating said adhesive means by removing a covering from said polymeric sheath thereby, exposing said adhesive means;

d) manipulating said polymeric sheath in a manual manner that spreads said adhesive to areas adjacent said opening; and

e) pressing said polymeric sheath securely over said toenail.

27. (New) A polymeric animal toenail covering having an internal cavity and an external shape defining a pliable sheath generally consistent with that of an animal toenail for incasing an animal toenail said sheath comprising an external coating of polymer encompassing at least a portion of said sheath.

28. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 27 wherein said external coating has a greater hardness than said covering .

29. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 27 wherein said coating is a different color than said sheath.

30. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 27 wherein said coating is applied to said sheath in manner whereby a void is formed between said coating and a portion of said sheath.

31. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 27 wherein said sheath comprises a plurality of pliable anticline cleats located within said internal cavity protruding inwardly.

32. (New) A polymeric animal toenail covering having a closed distal end and a open proximate end said covering having an internal cavity and a external shape defining a pliable sheath generally consistent with that of an animal toenail for telescopically encasing an animal toenail said sheath comprising a non-uniform wall thickness having a greater thickness at said distal end than at said proximate end.
33. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 32 wherein said non-uniform wall thickness is a lamination of layers.
34. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 33 wherein said lamination of layers comprises an outer layer having a hardness greater than any sub-layer.
35. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 33 further comprising a void located between said layers.
36. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 34 wherein said outer layer is a different color than that of said sub-layer.
37. (New) The polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 32 further comprising a plurality of anticline shaped flexible gripping elements located within said cavity pointing towards said distal end.
38. (New) A polymeric animal toenail sheath having an exterior surface and a rectangular opening to an interior cavity both exterior surface and said interior cavity defining a pliable sheath having a general shape consistent with that of an animal toenail said sheath defining a telescopic relationship over an animal toenail

encasing and providing protection therefrom said sheath comprising a polymeric overlay conforming to said general shape of said exterior surface.

39. (New) The Polymeric animal toenail covering according to claim 38 wherein said overlay is a different material composition than said sheath.